

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7463
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
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AMCONSUL TRIESTE POUCH
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: DC LEADERS RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL COALITION
WITH COMMUNISTS AT FIRST DC NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

SUMMARY: THE DC'S FIRST NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL HELD IN
THE FRIULI REGION, SEPTEMBER 22-25, PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY
FOR DC LEADERS TO OUTLINE THE PARTY'S STRATEGY IN DEALING WITH
THE COMMUNISTS IN THE PRESENT "EMERGENCY," TRANSITIONAL
PHASE. IF MORO, ANDREOTTI AND ZACCAGNINI ALL PLEDGED FUL-
FILLMENT OF THE DC'S OBLIGATIONS IN THE PROGRAM ACCORD, THEY
INSISTED IN EQUALLY STRONG TERMS THAT THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT
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CONSTITUTE THE BEGINNINGS OF A "POLITICAL COALITION" AS
SUGGESTED BY BERLINGUER IN HIS SPEECH TO THE PCI'S UNITY
FESTIVAL AT MODENA LAST WEEK. MORO AND ZACCAGNINI, IN
PARTICULAR, TOOK ELABORATE PAINS TO STRESS THAT THE DC
WILL NEVER RENOUNCE ITS DISTINCE POLITICAL IDENTITY AS
THE "GUARANTOR" OF ITALIAN DEMOCRACY, RULING OUT THE
POSSIBILITY OF "HOMOGENIZING FORCES WHICH ARE HISTORICALLY

AND VOCATIONALLY DIFFERENT AND WANT TO REMAIN SO." END SUMMARY.

1. AS THE DC'S PRE-EMINENT STRATEGIST AND EFFECTIVE LEADER OF THE PARTY, IT WAS PRESIDENT ALDO MORO'S TASK TO DELIVER THE FESTIVAL'S OPENING POLITICAL ADDRESS BEFORE A CAPACITY CROWD IN UNDINE'S CIVIC AUDITORIUM. SPEAKING IN AN EMOTIONAL CADENCE THAT EVOKED HIS RINGING DEFENSE OF THE DC DURING LAST SPRING'S PARLIAMENTARY LOCKHEED DEBATE, MORO WAS OFTEN INTERRUPTED BY BURSTS OF ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE, DEMONSTRATING ANEW HIS CURRENT OLD OVER THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP REINS. IT WAS MORO WHO SET BOTH THE TONE AND THE MAIN THEMES OF THE FOUR-DAY FESTIVAL.

2. THE MOST RESPONSIVE CHORD STRUCK BY MORO (AND REPLAYED WITH SUCCESS BY PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI IN HIS CONCLUDING SPEECH) WAS THAT OF THE DC'S HISTORIC, DEMOCRATIC MISSION AS THE PARTY WHICH HAS SAFEGUARDED ITALIAN LIBERTIES IN THE PAST AND WHICH THE ITALIAN PEOPLE STILL LOOK TO AS THE "GUARANTOR" OF DEMOCRACY IN AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT IN THRITY YEARS OF POWER THERE HAD BEEN "BOTH ERRORS AND IADEQUACIES," MORO STIRRED HIS AUDIENCE WITH REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT "WE ARE A GREAT PARTY; WE ARE STRONG AND AUTHORITATIVE; WE ARE A GUARANTEE OF LIBERTY FOR ITALIAN SOCIETY." ZACCAGNINI STRESSED THE SAME THEME BY DEFINING THE DC AS "THE PARTY IN THE SERVICE OF LIBERTY." MORO PAINTED

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A PICTURE OF A PARTY OF RENEWED VITALITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIVENESS. HE SAID THAT A NEW CONSENSUS WAS EMERGING AROUND IT, WITH EVER-INCREASING STRENGTH.

3. THE "CRISIS IN THE TRADITIONAL ALLIANCES" (I.E., THE INTERMEDIARY LAY PARTIES) HAD PRODUCED AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, HOWEVZR, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE LONG-LASTING AND WHICH HAD TO BE ASSESSED REALISTICALLY, "IN ALL ITS LIGHTS AND SHADOWINGS." THESE DIFFICULTIES HAD TO BE FACED WITH "ORIGINALITY, INCISIVENESS AND VIGOR." THE PROGRAM ACCORD, MORO SAID, SERVED "TO TEST THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF ALL PARTIES" AND TO PROVIDE "USEFUL INDICATIONS" AS TO WHETHER THE POLITICAL FORCES COULD WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE THE EFFECTIVE DIRECTION THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS IN THE PRESENT MOMENT. POSSIBLY TO ASSUAGE COMMUNIST CONCERNS THAT THE DC HAS LATELY SEEMED LESS ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THE PROGRAM ACCORD, MORO (FOLLOWED LATER BY ANDREOTTI AND ZACCAGNINI) STRESSED THAT THE PROGRAM ACCORD (ALBEIT LIMITED IN SCOPE) REMAINED THE CENTER-PIECE OF THE PARTY'S CURRENT POLICIES. "I WANT TO ASSURE THAT WHAT WE HAVE AGREED UPON," MORO SAID, "WILL BE FULFILLED. WE WILL FACE UP TO OUR OBLIGATIONS."

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4. MORO TOOK ELABORATE PAINS TO STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROGRAM ACCORD DID NOT CONSTITUTE A "POLITICAL COALITION." NEITHER THE PCI NOR THE DC, HE SAID, "WANTS TO RENOUNCE ITS IDENTITY AND ASPIRATIONS." MORO SAID THE DC HAD NOT LIST ITS IDENTITY IN THE CENTER-LEFT PERIOD; "WE CERTAINLY DO NOT INTEND TO RENOUNCE OUR IDEALS NOW." POINTING TO THE NUMEROUS IDEOLOGICAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE DC AND THE PCI, MORO USED UNUSUALLY BLUNT LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE THE COMMUNISTS AS "OUR ADVERSARIES OF ALWAYS." FINALLY, MORO EMPHASIZED THAT "EVERY DECISION IS REVERSIBLE."

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5. THE DC'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PCI WAS ALSO THE MAIN THEME OF ZACCAGNINI'S ADDRESS. ZACCAGNINI SIMILARLY REJECTED ANY ALLIANCE WITH THE PCI, STATING THAT "IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO HOMOGENIZE FORCES WHICH ARE HISTORICALLY AND VOCATIONALLY DIFFERENT AND WANT TO REMAIN SO." ZACCAGNINI WARNED THAT A "UNITY" GOVERNMENT OF ALL THE PARTIES THAT NOW PROVIDE ABSTENTION SUPPORT COULD "INTRODUCE DANGEROUS CONFORMISM IN NATIONAL POLITICAL LIFE CAPABLE OF THREATENING THE CORRECT FUNCTIONING OF DEMOCRACY." IN A REFERENCE TO BERLINGUER'S RECENT MODENA SPEECH (ROME 15515), ZACCAGNINI SAID THAT "OBSTACLES OF AN IDEOLOGICAL AND STRATEGIC NATURE STILL CONDITION THE PCI, TYING IT TO MARXISM-LENINISM AND THE UNITY, NOT SO MUCH IDEALISTIC AS POLITICAL, OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT." NO "HETEROGENEOUS COALITION IS POSSIBLE," HE SAID, SINCE THE DC'S DIFFERENCES WITH THE PCI ARE "PROFOUND AND, FOR NOW, IRRECONCILABLE." COMMENT: DESPITE THE WELCOME REASSURANCES OF THE DC'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM ACCORD, THE PCI CAN HARDLY HAVE BEEN COMFORTED BY THE UNCOMPROMISING MORO-ZACCAGNINI LINE. END COMMENT.

6. AS THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S ADDRESS AT PALMANOVA ON SEPT. 23 WAS DECIDEDLY LESS PARTISAN IN TONE. REITERATING A FAVORITE THEME, ANDREOTTI SAID THAT IF HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESSES IN DEALING WITH THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, THIS WAS DUE TO THE "LARGE PARLIAMENTARY CONSENSUS" THAT HAS PREVAILED. ANDREOTTI THEREFORE ALSO URGED THE DC TO DEFEND THE VALIDITY OF THE PROGRAM ACCORD: "WE MUST BE VERY ATTENTIVE NOT TO WEAKEN IT FOR THEN EVERY PROJECT TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS WILL BE IN VAIN." ANDREOTTI CONCLUDED WITH A STRONG APPEAL FOR UNITY IN THE PARTY. GARDNER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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